Dear 4-H & FFA Beef Project Members:

The annual Walworth County Junior Beef Project Weigh-In will be held on Saturday, **February 7** in the calf barn at the Walworth County Fairgrounds from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (The snow date is February 14.) All steers must be weighed and tagged on this date in order to be exhibited and sold at the 2015 Walworth County Fair. Steers will be weighed on a family basis, rather than a member basis. The steers will then be identified by exhibitor at fair weigh-in.

**Weigh-in Guidelines**

For everyone’s safety, all steers must be broken to lead at the time of this weigh-in. Each exhibitor can weigh up to 8 steers.

- All steers must be dehorned prior to weigh-in, or they will not be weighed or identified.
- Steers brought to weigh-in with bull leads or wires through noses will not be allowed to weigh.
- Exhibitors must report to the recording table while their steers are in the chutes. Make sure all information on the weigh-in forms you turn in is accurate.
- If someone other than you will be bringing your steer/s, be sure that person knows your address, grade, club/chapter, phone number, premise ID, etc. They have to fill forms out for you.

Know ahead of time if you wish to make a Carcass Contest entry for the fair and be prepared to share the breed of the carcass animal. There is a $5 non-refundable fee for carcass entries. Carcass steers count as one of the 8 steers you can weigh. Dairy beef and dairy steers are also eligible for Carcass Contest and must be identified at the weigh-in.

Following weigh-in, it is imperative that any lost tags must be reported to Superintendent Doc Sterken as soon as they are noticed. Steers will be retagged shortly after, and the UWEX office will record the new tag numbers. Do not plan to show up at the weigh-in scale during fair week with steers whose tags are missing as you will be required to pay for DNA tests on those animals (see below).

If weigh-in must be cancelled due to inclement weather, the cancellation will be recorded on the UW-Extension winter cancellation line—262-741-3193.

Any Walworth County steer that is tagged and has hair (DNA) recorded will only need to be weighed at our weigh-in.

**DNA collection will be NEW at weigh-in this year.** During weigh-in, hair will be pulled from each steer for possible DNA testing during or immediately following fair week. There will be no charge for this initial DNA collection as the *Friends of the Junior Beef Project* will be picking up the tab. Please be aware, however, that steers who arrive at fair weigh-in without an official Walworth County ear tag in their ear will be required to participate in a DNA test at the owner’s expense (approximately $100). The 2015 Champion & Reserve Champion Steers, the 2015 Champion & Reserve Champion Carcass Steers, and two steers drawn randomly will be tested at no cost to members.

All *Walworth County Meat Animal Sale* species (beef, sheep, and swine) are participating in DNA collection and testing this year.
If you have any questions, please contact Junior Beef Superintendent Doc Sterken at 262-949-5890 or 262-949-5743.

**Beef Project Clinic—March 14**

A Beef Project Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Activity Center at the fairgrounds. During the clinic, the *Friends of the Junior Beef Project Committee* will be working with members on showmanship, fitting, clipping, and more. At the end of the day, they will host an informal “show.” The enclosed waiver/permission form is required of participating members. Parents are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Lunch will be furnished and a drawing for door prizes will be held.

Members are encouraged to bring an animal (steer or heifer) to participate with them, as long as those animals are broken to lead. There is no water available at the fairgrounds, so your animal must arrive clean and ready for the clinic. Members must help clean up after the clinic. This clinic will satisfy one of your mandatory meeting requirements, but even if you attended the project meeting in November, you are highly encouraged to attend this clinic.

Animals will be needed for clipping and fitting demonstrations, so if you are willing to contribute yours for this cause, please call Doc and let him know. Parent helpers are also needed to assist with lunch, so if you can donate time or food, please let Doc know that, as well.

**State Fair**

If you plan to show at the 2015 State Fair, you can find information about sign-up at [http://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/](http://wistatefair.com/competitions/junior-livestock/). Be aware that the State Fair DNA/RFID identification postmark deadline for Beef is February 9, 2015.

Sincerely,

Debbie Burkman  
4-H Youth Development Educator

Peg Reedy  
Agriculture Educator